

United States Army at Fort Ord near Monterey, California. In 1960, he married the love of his life, Barbara Erickson, and together they raised four children: Chris, Sheryl, Lori and Karen.

Community service played an important role in Walt's life. As a Veteran, he served on the Fresno Chamber's Military Affairs Committee, Selective Service Board, National Guard Commission and the Association of the U.S. Army. Walt was also elected to the Sanger Unified School Board of Trustees, and served on the Fresno County Planning Commission, the Fresno Regional Foundation Board of Directors, and the Fresno Chamber Board, representing agriculture. In addition, Walt was an active member for the Sanger Lions Club and the Serbian Men's Club.

One of Walt's greatest passions was farming. A proud grape, plum and citrus farmer, he became active in the Fresno County Farm Bureau in the late 1970's. Walt was encouraged to join the FCFB by members of the Lone Star Center, specifically his brother, Bill. Walt was honored to serve as President of the Fresno County Farm Bureau from 1984–1986. His love of the Central Valley and agriculture made him an exemplary leader at the Farm Bureau and during his tenure, the organization grew to 7,900 members.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Walter Vladimir Cucuk, one of Fresno's most distinguished farmers and a true champion for the people of the San Joaquin Valley. His leadership and community service made him a role model and a source of pride to our community. Walt's caring nature and vibrant spirit will be sorely missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JERRY MARKS AND MRS. WENDY MARKS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jerry Marks and Mrs. Wendy Marks, for their work in furthering issues of importance to the Jewish community. Their work has been instrumental in helping to build a more united Jewish commonality.

Originally from Brooklyn, both Mr. and Mrs. Marks moved to New Jersey to pursue a life of advocacy and philanthropy. However, their commitment goes further than just philanthropy, as both Mr. and Mrs. Marks have been involved with multiple organizations in an effort to promote issues of vital importance to the Jewish community. Their involvement with the Jewish community is most evident through their work with the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County, where both Mr. and Mrs. Marks have dedicated much of their time and efforts volunteering in different capacities. This includes Wendy's tenure as President of the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County, as well as Jerry's tenure as Vice President of Endowments. Both Mr. and Mrs. Marks have served on the board of directors for many years, and both have traveled extensively around the world as representatives of both the Jewish community and the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County. Both Mr. and Mrs. Marks have received recognition for their work by the Sons of Israel Congregation, and in

2010 Mrs. Marks received the Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award at the International Lion of Judah Conference in New Orleans which was established to recognize "Woman of Valor". Mr. and Mrs. Marks are proud parents and grandparents of four adult children and seven grandchildren, as well as members of Temple Shalom in Aberdeen. It is with great pleasure that I join the Jewish Family and Children's Service in recognizing the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Marks this evening.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in leading this body in recognizing Mr. and Mrs. Marks for their tremendous work on behalf of the Jewish community. Their dedication and commitment to Jewish philanthropy and advocacy is truly inspirational.

RECOGNIZING LGBT HISTORY MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, October is LGBT History Month, and I rise to pay tribute to the remarkable achievements of this vibrant community. LGBT History Month, which will last throughout the month of October, commemorates the history of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender persons in addition to the history of gay rights movement.

I am proud to have supported the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which was formally abolished by the military on September 20, 2011, after an orderly transition program prepared troops for the change without affecting force readiness or morale. Our nation is now stronger and our people are safer thanks to the sacrifices made by these brave Americans, who no longer need to choose between service and silence.

There have been other changes for the better under the Obama administration. In July 2011, President Obama and his administration concluded that a critical section of the Defense of Marriage Act is no longer constitutionally defensible. And, on June 24, 2011, the State of New York passed a law with bipartisan support extending the right to marry to gay and lesbian couples.

History, and progress, is also being made at the local level. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, one of the largest LGBT communities in the nation is located in the Los Angeles-Long Beach metropolitan area, which I am privileged to represent. This dynamic community is culturally diverse and economically and artistically vibrant. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize two LGBT leaders who helped to make this possible.

Jean Harris was a lifelong human rights activist who employed her uncanny talent for community organizing to electing open-minded city officials and defeating discriminatory legislation. A true force in California's LGBT community, she served as chair of the California Democratic Party's Lesbian/Gay Caucus, president of San Francisco's Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, and vice president of the Long Beach Lambda Democratic Club. Indeed, many local leaders and public servants across California owe their careers to her tireless advocacy. Jean Harris passed away on June 15, 2011.

In August 2011, I rose to pay tribute to the late Paul Duncan, the Director of Outreach for the Long Beach Community Business Network, who spent the last ten years of his life working tirelessly to connect local Long Beach employers to business organizations from Hawaii to Washington, DC. An advocate for economic empowerment of LGBT business owners and entrepreneurs, Mr. Duncan was known around the nation and beloved by the Long Beach community. He died suddenly of an aneurysm at a national conference where he was one of 70 affiliate leaders working for job creation and expanded economic opportunity for LGBT-owned businesses.

Mr. Speaker, progress is made through the efforts of courageous leaders like Jean and Paul; people who actively engage their communities and face adversity to ensure that the rights of all are clearly defined and protected.

People like the legendary Bayard Rustin, a leading strategist of the Civil Rights Movement and trusted advisor to Martin Luther King, Jr. An early proponent of nonviolent resistance, Rustin organized the 1947 Journey of Reconciliation which inspired the Freedom Rides of the 1960s and helped Dr. King organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference which became the nerve center of the American Civil Rights Movement.

Bayard Rustin was a driving force behind the iconic 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom which brought national attention to the civil rights struggle and spurred the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. He arranged the transportation, trained the marshals and oversaw all of the logistical details involved in putting on one of the most effective political demonstrations in world history and setting the stage for Dr. King's timeless "I Have a Dream" speech.

Later, Bayard Rustin worked to integrate all-white unions and became heavily involved in international humanitarian development and peacemaking. Openly gay, he became a public advocate for LGBT causes in the 1970s and passed away on a mission to Haiti in 1987.

Many great writers of the Harlem Renaissance, such as Countée Cullen and Bruce Nugent, were homosexual, and the contributions they made to literature are forever ingrained in the cultural fabric of America. Langston Hughes was probably the most well known, though he was an intensely private man and never spoke openly on the subject.

Billy Strayhorn was a musician and gifted composer whose 30-year collaboration with Duke Ellington resulted in some of the most indispensable music of the jazz age. Openly gay, Strayhorn participated in many civil rights causes and arranged a musical score for his friend, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1963.

James Baldwin is one of the great literary figures of the 20th century. The writings of this African-American explored issues of race and class and gender. He rose to prominence with the civil rights movement and worked to bridge the gap between the competing approaches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X, both of whom were his personal friends. His work and life had a profound impact on countless equality activists and writers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge the achievements of just a few of the countless number of Americans who defied the